

Spotlights Maricopa Workforce Connections and Mesa Community College

SCOTTSDALE - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today toured Maricopa Workforce Connections and Mesa Community College to highlight local job creation and job training programs in action. Mitchell viewed the facilities and met with students of the training and certification programs offered through the program.

"In difficult economic times it is important that Arizonans are aware of the local job creation and job training programs that can help put people back to work," Mitchell said. "The programs offered through Maricopa Workforce Connections are critical in helping people get the tools, information and skills they need to find a good paying job to support them and their families."

Maricopa Workforce Connections has partnered with community colleges and private businesses to identify job opportunities and create multiple entry and exit training and certification programs. Today, Mitchell saw firsthand all of the services it provides during a tour of Maricopa Workforce Connections' one-stop career center in Gilbert. The career center currently receives over 6,000 visits per month.

Mesa Community College (MCC) is one of the schools that is partnering with Maricopa Workforce Connections and is using voucher-scholarship programs to enable dislocated workers to retrain for jobs that have been identified as a community need. Mitchell visited MCC and met with students of the program.

Maricopa Workforce Connections has been able to put \$7.8 million in funding, provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to use on these programs and are in the process of competing for millions more in recovery grants to continue their work.